

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 5 to read as follows:

- C2
5. (Thrice amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the MUC18 antigen is a middle portion of the MUC18 polypeptide and consists of the amino acid residues of 211-376 of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Please cancel claims 7-11 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 12 to read as follows.

- C3
12. (Once amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said prostate cancer cell is a cell line cell.

Please cancel claim 20 without prejudice.

Please add a new claim as follows:

- C4
21. (New) A method for predicting a risk for metastasis of a prostate cancer cell consisting essentially of measuring the level of expression of a MUC18 coding sequence in said prostate cancer cell, wherein the level of expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by immunoassay using antibodies specific for an epitope of MUC18 polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, whereby the expression of the MUC18 coding sequence in said prostate cancer cell indicates a risk of metastasis for the prostate cancer cell.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5, 12, and 21 are pending with the entry of this Amendment in this case.

Claims 4, 7-11, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 5, and 12 have